Torn down

65 /145 Seymour Road

Across the road from entrance to Stop and Shop

Owned by Abel North in 1786.

Taken apart and added onto 81 Ledge Road

1935 Susqui-Centennial Celebration of the Town of Berlin – Berlin Old Houses.

1786 Abel North current owner: Henry Pekrul Seymour

1985 Townwide Historic and Architectural Survey of Berlin, Connecticut. Survey # 155

Late 18th century Town Farm current owner: Town of Berlin

Historically, the building is significant for its long-time 19th-century use as Berlin's Alms House (also known as the Town Farm). Its use for this purpose dates back at least to 1833, when the town purchased it from Seth Deming. Another early occupant was Blakeslee Barnes. The property is still owned by the town of Berlin.

Built in 1786 by Abel North.

Catharine North, A History of Berlin, Connecticut, c1916, page 111: In 1786 Isaac North

Owned by the Pekrul family.

Across the road from the north entrance to Stop and Shop.

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES
HIST-6 NEW 5/77

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
(203) 566-3005

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No.:
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT ☐ S ☐ NR	IF NR, SPECIFY ☐ Actual ☐ Potential

#155

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) (Historic): Alms House

2. TOWN CITY: Berlin | VILLAGE: Kensington | COUNTY: Hartford

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location): 145 Seymour Road 10-3/83A

4. OWNER(S): Town of Berlin ☒ Public ☐ Private

5. USE (Present): Residence (Historic): Alms House

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD ☒ Yes ☐ No | INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ☐ Yes ☒ No | IF YES, EXPLAIN

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Vernacular | DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: late 18th century

8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)
☐ Clapboard ☐ Asbestos Siding ☐ Brick ☐ Other (Specify) ____
☒ Wood Shingle ☐ Asphalt Siding ☐ Fieldstone
☐ Board & Batten ☐ Stucco ☐ Cobblestone
☐ Aluminum Siding ☐ Concrete Type: ____ ☒ Cut stone Type: brownstone foundation

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM
☐ Wood frame ☒ Post and beam ☐ balloon
☐ Load bearing masonry ☐ Structural iron or steel
☐ Other (Specify) ____

10. ROOF (Type)
☒ Gable ☐ Flat ☐ Mansard ☐ Monitor ☐ sawtooth
☒ Gambrel ☐ Shed ☐ Hip ☐ Round ☐ Other (Specify) ____
(Material)
☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Roll Asphalt ☐ Tin ☐ Slate ☐ Gable end to the street
☒ Asphalt shingle ☐ Built up ☐ Tile ☐ Other (Specify) ____ ☒ Ridge parallel to the street

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2½ | APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 37' x 35'

12. CONDITION (Structural) ☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated | (Exterior) ☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY (Location) ☒ On original site ☐ Moved | WHEN? | (Alterations) ☒ Yes ☐ No | IF YES, EXPLAIN: Much new fabric

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES
☐ Barn ☐ Shed ☐ Garage ☐ Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)
☐ Carriage house ☐ Shop ☐ Garden

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT
☐ Open land ☐ Wood-land ☒ Residential ☐ Scattered buildings visible from site
☒ Commercial ☒ Indus-trial ☐ Rural ☐ High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS
In light industrial area northeast of Kensington center.

155

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)

The Berlin Alms House is a gambrel-roofed building with a five-bay facade and a small central chimney. The large central entry is now boarded up with a wide beaded-board and plank door. The main roof cornice is molded with a partial return. Windows are generally fitted with 6-over-six sash. Side walls are considerably out of plumb. On the right is an old parallel gabled rear extension.

SIGNIFICANCE

18. ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

Although much of its exterior fabric is recent, the Berlin Alms House is significant as a good surviving example of an 18th-century timber-frame building. Its gambrel roof was designed to create more useful space in the attic story.

Historically, the building is significant for its long-time 19th-century use as Berlin's Alms House (also known as the Town Farm). Its use for this purpose dates back at least to 1833, when the town purchased it from Seth Deming. Another early occupant was Blakeslee Barnes. The property is still owned by the town of Berlin.

SOURCES

1855 Atlas
1869 Atlas

PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE
HRC	11/84
VIEW: NW	NEGATIVE ON FILE: G3

COMPILED BY

NAME	DATE
Historic Resource Consultants	12/84
ORGANIZATION: The Colt Armory, 55 Van Dyke Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106	

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

Berlin Historical Society

This is an oil painting of the old Town Farm by Douglas Demers (1891-1969). The Town Farm was built in the late 18th century as an "alms house", where people without a place to live or a family to care for them could live and work. Many old New England towns had such houses. The jail was in the basement, and the museum has the wooden jail door on display. We are grateful to Marilyn Skinner for sending the painting back to her home town so it could be shared. For many years her Skinner relatives were caretakers of the farm. The house stood at 145 Seymour Road, on property that became the Municipal Garage area. When the Town of Berlin wanted to construct a large storage building on the site, Pam & Tom Pethigal offered to take down the oldest part of the house, piece by piece. They used the beams, boards and woodwork to reconstruct it as an addition on their home...thereby keeping a part of its history here.

Vintage photo of the Town Farm house and barns as seen from Farmington Avenue (probably where the Citgo station is now).The address was 145 Seymour Road back then.

painting show rhe main house had a gambrel roof. Such curved roofs afforded more attic space than gabled roofs. he main house had a gambrel roof. Such curved roofs afforded more attic space than gabled roofs.